The Rusty Relic

Eagle Point Historical Society

Volume 2, Issue 3

April 1, 2008

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President's Message

Dear member:

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been a long, cold winter that has us all wishing again for the dog days of summer and the 100-degree heat.

Things seem to be moving along with the Wood House group. They have received notice of being granted the non-profit status needed to accept assets from the museum group. All the paperwork on that should be done within 60 days. That also brings us closer to transferring assets to the City of Eagle Point. This seems to be the only way of keeping the museum open in the faee of financial crisis.

Knowing that the museum will be transferred to the city, the Board has not required current members to pay dues for the year 2008. If you wish to make a donation in the same amount, it will be appreciated, but still not required.

The museums association held open houses on the weekend of February 23-24, Eagle Point was no exception. Bands set up and played inside the museum, to the delight of about 80 guests for the Saturday event. On Sunday, the plaque, dedicated to life members was unveiled. Mayor Leon Sherman and myself cut the cake for the event in front of a sparse crowd. The plaque is in the main portion of the museum, directly above the guest register. Make a special trip and see it.

Reports of a fire in the museum have been greatly exaggerated. A smoke-filled building turned out to be a hot ballast on one of the lights in the schoolhouse portion of the building. Pete Jackson changed out the ballast and everything seems to be fine. The excitement came because the smoke got into the ventilation system and it seemed much worse than it was.

We are going through a period of change and our hope is to keep you well-informed as to what's going on. If we fail in this, please let us know.

Ralph McKechnie, President.

Hours of Operation

Open: Saturdays
11 AM to 3 PM
Every third Thursday and
Friday 11AM—3 PM

Officers

President
Ralph McKechnie

Vice President
Helen Wolgamott

Treasurer
Bill Bradshaw

Secretary
Margaret Webster

Board Member at Large
Suzi Collins
Dennis Godfrey

Membership
Margaret Webster

Wood House Coordinators
Skip & Charlotte Greear

Grounds Coordinator
Helen Wolgamott

Office Manager
Ken Thompson

Docents Coordinator
Sally Corriveau

Wood House Update

Hi Folks;

Things are moving along quickly (as quickly as government does move) in regards to the Wood House becoming it's own 501 (c) (3). We received a letter from the IRS dated February 19th stating that they are in receipt of our 501 (c) (3) application and that we should hear back from them within 60 days. Once the 501 (c) (3) is approved by the IRS the conveyance can be done for both the Wood House and the museum and then the city can take over.

Here are the confirmed dates that I have so far for the upcoming events at the Wood House for 2008:

Antique Tractor Show: April 26th and 27

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Meetings

The Historical Society meets the third Monday of each month at 7 PM at the Eagle Point Museum. All meetings are always open to the public and to Historical Society members. Come on down and meet your board members.

Dues (waived for current members)
Single Family Member $10.00
Multiple family same household $15.00
Lifetime member $100.00

Souvenirs Here

If you haven't been by the museum in awhile you should swing by and check out the various items we have that make great souvenirs.

We have created four excellent magnets with pictures of the Museum, The Avenue of Flags and the Wood House. All magnets are only $1.00.

We also have T-shirts and sweat shirts with the Museum logo on them. Everything soon to become collector items. Gift Receipts available.

(Wood House Update continued)
Art Show: May 3rd
Antique Military Vehicle Show: May 17th and 18th
Antique Clock Show: June 7th
"Wood House Celebration" Wine Tasting Show with five wineries attending: June 14th

There will also be a Ford Mustang Car Show sometime in April or in May. The date is still pending.

The Civil War Reenactment is tentatively scheduled for September, but that may change as we get closer.

No dates set for the other shows as of yet.

As always, the dates are subject to change due to the weather and etc. Skip

Sally wants you

Hi. I have been up north the past few weeks visiting family and enjoying grandchildren. I was sorry to have missed the 30th Anniversary but I have heard it was a grand success.

I would like to again thank the following docents that kept the museum open: Marge Gonzales, June Mundine, Maggie Webster, Suzi Collins, Annette Kruis, Helen Wolgamott, Karen Frink, Everette Jennings, Cindy Ilten, Eve Forbes and Emma Adams.

I would also like to wish Maggie a speedy recovery from her hip surgery.

Sally Corriveau

Office Update

Membership Dues:

As all of you know by now, the City of Eagle Point will be taking over the operation of the museum very soon. No decisions have been made from the city in regards to membership after their takeover and the Historical Society certainly DOES NOT want to speculate.

The Board of Directors for the Historical Society voted during their March 17th monthly meeting to temporarily waive membership fees for 2008 for **existing members** . This decision is subject to change in the event the takeover, for whatever reason does not take place. You may still make **tax deductible** contributions to the Historical Society in any amount for those of you wish to do so.

If you have any questions, please contact the Eagle Point Museum at 826-4166.

Grounds by Helen

Helen Wolgamott here. Not much has been going on with the grounds over the winter. With Spring getting here we are just starting to work the grounds and enjoy the beauty of nature.

We were able to get the school bell fixed thanks to the telephone company coming out and volunteering their time and equipment.

Thanks to Pete Jackson for fixing the light in the school house.

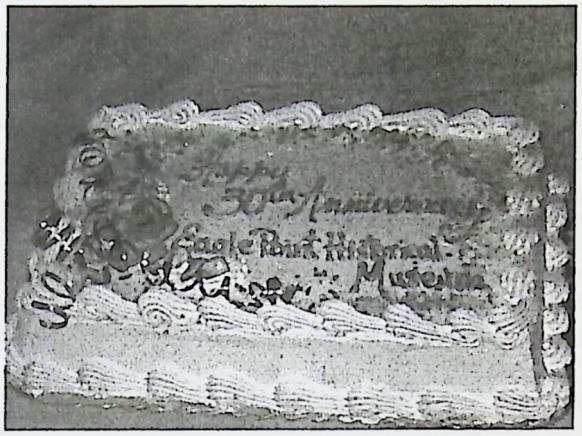
30th Anniversary

During the weekend of February 23rd and 24th the Eagle Point Museum celebrated it's 30th anniversary. A great time was had by all who came out to visit. We would like to thank all of those that helped out in making this anniversary the best one yet. A special thanks to the Heaven Scent Florist for donating a beautiful bouquet of flowers for the event.

On Saturday we enjoyed the music of the Dixi Six. The band was led by Tom Hobbs and provided some wonderful toe-tapping ragtime music for those in attendance.

After a short break, the museum was filled (literally) with the wonderful sounds of the New Horizon Valley of the Rogue Band conducted by Ivan Holinghous. The New Horizon band presented the audience with a large selection of beautiful songs. I personally enjoyed their rendition of of Amazing Grace.

During the day we also had a cake cutting ceremony and a book signing event with Everett Jennings who has written a book on the history of Eagle Point. Copies of the book are still available at the Museum.



On Sunday we celebrated by honoring those members of the Society that had stepped forward and became life time members. On hand for the plaque unveiling were Mayor Leon Sherman and Historical Society President Ralph McKechnie.

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Volunteers Needed

I was recently in the new Harnish Wayside Center and discovered that there is a need to provide a visitor's guide of surviving historic homes and buildings in our town.

Wouldn't it be interesting to know where the namesake of Mattie Brown Park lived? Or to know a little history about the building by Ed's Oasis with the folksy eagle adorning the front? Was the big Queen Anne Victorian across from Butte Creek Mill home to the town's first doctor? And what was the use for that quaint little stone building further up Royal Avenue? Who was "Mr. Eagle Point" and where did he live?

If anyone is talented with research, interviewing, writing, page layout or photography and would like to donate some time to help document these and other historic places in our town, please contact Dennis Godfrey at 301-4712.

Dennis Godfrey

Vintage Fair
May 10th

Head's up everyone. The Vintage fair returns to Eagle Point May 10th. There will be fun and events for everyone.

In addition to the Vintage displays there will be wine tasting at the Little Butte Mill as well as music (weather permitting) from the New Horizons band that performed for our 30th anniversary.

Come on out and bring a friend.

Our Heritage Matters

Excerpt from the Our Heritage PAC Economic Feasibility Statement of 3/18/2008

"Jackson County was formed by the Oregon Territorial Government in 1852, seven years before statehood. Its history of human occupation goes back thousands of years, and the geological history reaches back almost 400 million years. The proposed district includes all Jackson County except the city of Shady Cove. Nearly 70 percent of Jackson County residents live in the 10 incorporated cities within the proposed district.

The Rogue Valley Heritage District will support programs of heritage societies with the district on behalf of all district residents. It will operate and maintain heritage sites and structures and acquire and preserve historical objects and materials. It will be established under Chapter 562, Oregon Laws 207 (Enrolled House Bill 3528). If the petition drive is successful, the formation election will include a vote to approve a permanent tax rate limit of no more than $0.07 per $1,000 of assessed value."

Many of you have already received a petition in the mail to help in gathering signatures. The Eagle Point Historical Society has already voted to support the drive. If you believe in maintaining Southern Oregon heritage we ask you for you help in obtaining signatures.

If you have any questions please contact the Our Heritage PAC, 2 North Oakdale, Medford. OR 97501; (541) 773-3606 email rbt@ourheritagepac.org

NOTE: Camp White withdrew 13 March as the petitions arrived by mail.

A Reunion at the School

On Saturday, March 22nd the Museum had a class reunion of sorts. Helen Wolgamott contacted as many people as she could that were part of the one room school before it became a museum. Eight students were able to make the reunion and rekindle old friendships.

I was able to sit down with each of them and tried to capture their memories on what school was like back then. Trust me, you don't have to watch the History channel to discover what life was like then. Just find someone who has been there, got the "T" shirt. It was fascinating the things they remembered from school.

Most attended Mrs. Turner's 3rd grade class.

Grace Boren Armstrong attended the school (3rd to 8th grade) when it was on Agate Road.

From left: Grace Boren Armstrong ; Aloha Boren Armstrong; Irene Peterson; Jack Grab; Dorothy Carlson; Pete Jackson; Lena Tibbets Crider; Ted Daw

As I mentioned, I was able to sit down with all of them and pick their memories on what school was like back then. Here is some of the memories:

Jack Grab mentioned that his claim to fame back then was the only person to have 4 letter names for

Reunion (cont)

his name (Jack Ivan Grab).

Dorothy remembers to this day being blamed for drawing a picture of a cow with, let's say an exaggerated utter. Someone had told the teacher Dorothy did it, but there were two Dorothy's in the class.

Ted remembered getting caught stealing a piece of chalk. The teacher said if he really needed the piece of chalk she would have been glad to give it to him. To the best of his recollection, he has never stolen anything since.

Grace had to stay after school EVERY DAY because she could not master the multiplication tables. Every Day. Got to the fourth grade and everything clicked for her and multiplication and life was good after that.

Awe..... The innocence of early school days.

Oh yes, did I mention Jack admitted to having a 3rd grade crush on Irene? Love springs eternal.

One last flash to the past happened when the school bell rang. Although the years may have come and gone, the sound of the bell brought chills to their spines. They still knew if you heard the bell once it was time for school. If you heard it a second time you were late.

Story by
Ken Thompson

Suzi Says

As you know, I'm fairly new to the Eagle Point area (3 1/2 years) so when the Museum celebrated the 30th anniversary open house on February 23rd and 24th and I knew that a plaque honoring the "Lifetime Members" was going to be presented, I looked and saw a couple names that I knew. I contacted these two ladies and personally invited them to our celebration. They both came and said they really enjoyed the festivities and appreciated the invitation.

l to r Alice Bryer and Carolyn Steiber

Maggie Webster provided festive decorations and a wonderful cake to commemorate the occasion.

Please stop by the Museum and see the plaque honoring our Lifetime Members. We have some new items for viewing too.
Suzi Collins

30th Anniversary cont.

Throughout the day we were honored with the presence of several people significant to the success of the museum .

Peter Crandall who was instrumental in relocating the museum to it's current location stopped by to say Hi.

By the end of the weekend over 110 visitors had blessed our little museum. Each guest left with a souvenir magnet of the museum as well as information on the new Jackson County Heritage Association.

With the coming of Spring and better weather we hope to have more festivities and music to help one and all enjoy the museum experience. Come on out!!!

Story by
Ken Thompson

Eagle Point Historical
Society

P.O. Box 201
Eagle Point, OR 97524

Phone:541-826-4166

HAVE YOU LOANED SOMETHING TO THE MUSEUM?

The Eagle Point Historical Society is in the early stages of possibly being absorbed by the City of Eagle Point Parks and Recreation department. As part of that process the city is asking for a complete inventory of all items owned by the Historical Society.

The museum is currently working on the premise that all items in the museum have been deeded to the museum and as such belong to the museum. If you have LOANED something to the museum for display and can prove that the item or items were loaned rather than deeded to the museum and wish to have the items returned you must contact the museum immediately. If, and when, the museum becomes part of the city all items within the museum will become city property.

If you have any questions please contact the museum at 826-4166.